

TRANSFORMING YOUNG LIVES THROUGH HOUSING, SKILLS, ARTS, HEALTH, ADVICE AND CARE



1st July 2021

Dear Julia,

I am writing to give an update on the £6,000 donation made by Beauty with a Purpose in July 2020 and to say a huge thank you for supporting homeless young people in Leicester. You have been sponsoring Marc Wainright House and I have outlined below the impact of your generous donation.



Supporting young people

Approximately half of the funds have been used to support young people into work. Those in supported accommodation often have negative experiences; low paid work causes benefits to reduce or stop immediately, leaving them in greater poverty after the rent is paid and waiting up to a month for their first pay. These barriers prevent many young people from sustaining their job and finding independence.

Six young people living at Marc Wainright House benefitted from a rent bursary to prevent them getting into financial difficulties at that critical time of starting work. They also have continuing support from their keyworker, helping them sustain employment and develop coping mechanisms for any issues they face. Most have progressed to the semi-independent move-on house when they outgrew our higher support accommodation. We have delivered food and toiletries to residents where possible during lockdowns to help them through such a tough year.

Maintaining the house

Your donation also enabled the upgrade of interior features, which is really important to show young people they are valued. This included replacing old patio doors with windows in a downstairs bedroom where the young person could not ventilate the room without having doors open, which is unsuitable at night. We have fitted new curtains in the lounge and also replaced worn carpets in shared living spaces. These are in addition to our general house maintenance schedule.

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A young person's story

Before living at The Y, I lived with my mother, her boyfriend and my much older brother. I didn't have good relationships with any of them, and I argued with my mother a lot. It was a very bad environment for me to be in, and eventually I was kicked out after an argument that was related to me identifying as a member of the LGBTQ+ community. I was 17.

Since moving to The Y I have felt the most supported I have since I was a toddler learning to walk. Living at The Y has put me in a space where I feel I am finally able to move my life forward. My mental health has got far better since living here, I've felt free and independent and I was finally able to go back into sixth form.

Having to interact with so many new people at once was daunting for someone with social anxiety, and the day I moved into Aylestone I was terrified. Having to dive into the world of adulthood and having to meet so many new people at once has made me a much more confident person. I'm not perfect, but I am changed. I'm now able to stand up for things I believe in and care about. It sounds silly that such a simple change of where you live can change your life so dramatically, but it has for me.

I've lived at the Marc Wainright house since autumn and it's still easy to get help as the staff come every week. I was doing my A levels when we went into lockdown and I've had to finish studying online, so I've spent a lot of time in the house. It's been great that each room has an en suite bathroom and the new carpets have made it much more homely. The rent bursary will make a big difference to me when I start my job soon, and I'm hoping to get into university this year. I feel super comfortable here and it's nice to feel independent.

There are lots of ways that you could describe The Y and what they do. They like to brand it as accommodation for homeless young people, I think that's wrong. It is so much more. It is an expansive support network of caring human beings. The staff have been totally amazing, and I feel respected and completely understood by my key worker. I finally feel safe and as if I can be myself and relaxed in my own home, which is the way that everyone should feel.

I hope this has given you a useful overview of the amazing impact donations like yours can have. You have made a significant difference for young people in Leicester who have experienced homelessness, family break down, trauma and poor mental health. We are also really grateful to your contestants Tia, Khushboo and Emily who raised money for the Sponsor a House campaign last year despite the events being cancelled and the difficulties of fundraising during lockdown. It has been a pleasure to share this and we're here to answer any questions you have.

Yours sincerely



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